





The Delta Science Program, Ecosystem Restoration Program & Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

Jointly Present a Brown Bag Seminar Series

A Series on the "Delta Narratives" Project

Did George H. Derby Destroy the Delta?

Dr. Gregg Camfield

Vincent Hillyer Professor of Literature University of California, Merced

Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Park Tower Building 2nd Floor Conference Room 980 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814



Lt. George H. Derby 1823 - 1861

As transportation nodes, cities at the mouths of deltas often become cultural centers. In contrast to other deltas, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta lacks cultural prominence, a hurdle that may be keeping the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas from becoming a notable travel and tourist destination.

In this segment of the "Delta Narratives" project, Dr. Gregg Camfield discusses his theory using as his guides both the evolutionary history of the region and, more importantly, the writings of one George Horatio Derby, a 19th Century lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers and an early California humorist. Dr. Camfield will explore how historical literature may have affected the perception of the Delta as a vibrant community, setting the stage for what he believes is a region that is both an undiscovered jewel and culturally inconspicuous.

The "Delta Narratives" project is funded by the Delta Protection Commission. For more information on the Delta Narratives Project, please visit http://www.delta.ca.gov/Delta_Narratives.htm.